

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A therapeutic composition comprising:
a an injectable biodegradable carrier, said carrier comprising a first polysaccharide cross-linked to a second polysaccharide, wherein said first and second polysaccharides is each a member selected from the group consisting of hyaluronic acid, dextran, dextran sulfate, chondroitin sulfate, dermatan sulfate, keratan sulfate, heparin, heparin sulfate and alginate; and wherein said first and second polysaccharides are covalently cross-linked to each other through imine bonds between amino groups on said second polysaccharide and aldehyde groups from oxidized sugar rings on said first polysaccharide; and
a therapeutic agent selected from the group consisting of growth factors, cytokines, hormones, DNA constructs, and autologous, allogenic or modified cells.
2. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said first polysaccharide is the same as said second polysaccharide.
3. (original) The composition of claim 2, wherein said first and said second polysaccharide are both hyaluronate.
4. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said first polysaccharide is different from said second polysaccharide.
5. (original) The composition of claim 4, wherein said first polysaccharide is hyaluronate and said second polysaccharide is chondroitin sulfate.
6. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said first polysaccharide contains an excess of aldehyde groups such that free aldehyde groups remain subsequent to cross-linking to said second polysaccharide.
7. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said carrier has a gel-like form.
8. (cancelled)
9. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said therapeutic agent is covalently bonded to said carrier.
10. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said therapeutic agent is entrapped within said carrier.

11. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said therapeutic agent is a chondrogenic agent.

12-28 (cancelled).